



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

August 5, 2008

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

## **RESOLUTION DECLARING A COUNTYWIDE WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION ALERT (ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

### **SUBJECT**

Declaration of a Countywide Water Supply and Conservation Alert urging County residents, businesses, local water purveyors, and cities to intensify water conservation efforts and directing all County departments to immediately implement conservation measures to achieve a 15 to 20 percent reduction in overall water demand.

### **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

Adopt the proposed Resolution declaring a Countywide Water Supply and Conservation Alert urging County residents, businesses, local water purveyors, and cities to intensify water conservation efforts; directing all County departments to evaluate water usage and immediately implement conservation measures; urging local water purveyors and cities to accelerate and intensify public outreach campaigns; urging cities to update and adopt water wasting ordinances and prepare for the enforcement of the ordinances, if necessary; and encouraging County residents to follow ten (10) easy tips to reduce their water usage.

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"*

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### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The purpose of the recommended action is to declare a Countywide Water Supply and Conservation Alert urging County residents, businesses, local water purveyors, and cities to intensify water conservation efforts and directing all County departments to immediately implement conservation measures to achieve a 15 to 20 percent reduction in overall water demand.

On July 1, 2008, your Board approved a motion by Supervisor Don Knabe to implement recommendations submitted in a report entitled "Response to Governor Schwarzenegger's Statewide Drought Proclamation" that was prepared by the Acting Director of Public Works in collaboration with the Departments of Internal Services, Parks and Recreation, and Regional Planning. This action would implement the report's first recommendation, the declaration of a Countywide Water Supply and Conservation Alert.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The Countywide Strategic Plan directs the provision of Service Excellence (Goal 1) and Community Services (Goal 6) by providing County residents, County departments, businesses, local water purveyors, and cities with information and recommendations to lessen the potential impacts of the Statewide drought and improve the quality of life for County residents.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

There will be no impact to the County General Fund.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

Adoption of this Resolution will declare a Countywide Water Supply and Conservation Alert urging County residents, businesses, local water purveyors, and cities to intensify water conservation efforts and directing all County departments to immediately implement conservation measures to achieve a 15 to 20 percent reduction in overall water demand. The Resolution has been approved as to form by County Counsel.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

Pursuant to Section 21065 of the Public Resources Code, the declaration of a Countywide Water Supply and Conservation Alert will not cause a physical change to the environment and, therefore, does not constitute a project subject to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

The recommended action will provide County residents, County departments, businesses, local water purveyors, and cities with information and recommendations to lessen the potential impacts of the Statewide drought and thereby protect the quality of life for County residents. The proposed action is not anticipated to have a negative impact on existing services or planned projects.

**CONCLUSION**

Please return one adopted copy of this letter and Resolution to the Chief Executive Office, Community and Municipal Services and the Departments of Internal Services, Parks and Recreation, Public Works (Waterworks Division), and Regional Planning.

Respectfully submitted,



WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

WTF:LS  
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Attachment

c: All Department Heads

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING A  
COUNTYWIDE WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION ALERT**

**WHEREAS**, the State has experienced two consecutive years of below-average precipitation with March and April being the driest period in the northern Sierra since 1921, the first year that records were kept; and

**WHEREAS**, water runoff into streams and reservoirs is substantially lower than normal because water is being absorbed by parched soil due to last year's extremely dry weather, and

**WHEREAS**, Lake Oroville and San Luis Reservoir, the State Water Project's two largest reservoirs, are currently at 42 percent and 30 percent of operational capacity, substantially less than normal for this time of year; and

**WHEREAS**, recent court decisions have affected water exports from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta (Delta) because of concerns related to five endangered fish species; and

**WHEREAS**, the Delta is vulnerable to events such as the Lower Jones Tract levee failure, the potential for a New Orleans Katrina-type flooding disaster; and the 2 in 3 chance of a 6.7 or greater magnitude earthquake in or near the Delta in the next 30 years; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change impacts are expected to increase the Delta's vulnerability and further reduce the reliability of deliveries from the State Water Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Colorado River Watershed has experienced an 8-year drought, and the river system's storage is at approximately 50 percent of capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 4, 2008, Governor Schwarzenegger signed Executive Order S-06-08, proclaiming the first Statewide drought in 16 years; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 10, 2008, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California issued a Water Supply Alert in Southern California urging local agencies to pursue extraordinary conservation measures; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 1, 2008, the Board of Supervisors approved a motion by Supervisor Don Knabe to implement recommendations submitted in a report prepared by the Acting Director of Public Works entitled "Response to Governor Schwarzenegger's Statewide Drought Proclamation"; to prepare a strategy to increase the use of recycled water at all County facilities; and to determine the impact the drought may have on the land development process and pending development projects in the unincorporated County area.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, hereby:

1. Declare a Countywide Water Supply and Conservation Alert.
2. Urge County residents, businesses, local water purveyors, and cities to intensify water conservation efforts to achieve a 15 to 20 percent reduction in overall water demand.
3. Direct all County departments to evaluate water usage, immediately implement conservation measures to reduce consumption by a target amount of 10 percent by December 31, 2008, and report back to the Board of Supervisors with recommended measures to reduce consumption by an additional 10 percent.
4. Urge local water purveyors and cities to accelerate and intensify public outreach campaigns to communicate the need for extraordinary water conservation to the general public.
5. Urge cities to update and adopt water wasting ordinances and prepare for the enforcement of the ordinances, if necessary.
6. Encourage County residents to follow 10 easy tips (Attachment A) to reduce their water consumption.

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The foregoing Resolution was adopted on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2008,  
by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles.

SACHI A. HAMAI  
Executive Officer of the  
Board of Supervisors of  
the County of Los Angeles

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

RAYMOND G. FORTNER, JR.  
County Counsel

By

  
Deputy

**10 EASY TIPS TO REDUCE WATER CONSUMPTION**

1. **Shorten your watering cycles.** Up to 70 percent of residential water use goes to maintaining our yards. Taking one minute off a ten-minute cycle saves ten percent!
2. **Check your sprinkler system.** Do a weekly check for broken or clogged sprinkler heads and replace them right away. Make sure you are watering your yard and not the driveway or sidewalk.
3. **Fix those leaks.** Just a drip can waste more than 10,000 gallons per month. A leaking flapper on a toilet also increases flows at the water treatment plant.
4. **Plant native species or drought-tolerant plants.** Many of the lawns and plants we use are not intended for the unique climate in Southern California.
5. **Use a broom instead of a hose.** Sweeping up rather than hosing off leaves or grass clippings not only saves water, it reduces runoff.
6. **Get an adjustable hose nozzle for outdoor use.** With one of these you can adjust the spray to meet your needs. A hose running for five minutes uses the same amount of water as a 20-minute shower.
7. **Eliminate runoff.** Runoff could mean your lawn needs aeration. When you aerate your lawn, you give the water somewhere to go besides down the storm drain.
8. **Take shorter showers.** Cutting two minutes off your shower time can save 600 gallons a month for a family of four. If you change the showerhead to a water efficient model, you could save even more.
9. **Turn off the water** while you brush your teeth or shave.
10. **Wash only full loads of laundry or dishes.** Waiting until you have a full load can save you up to 20 gallons for the same amount of clean clothes.